

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 10-14 remain pending in the application. Non-elected claims 1-9 and 15-18 have been canceled. Editorial revisions have been made in claim 10.

Claim 10 has been rejected as obvious over Tamai in view of Aoki. Claims 11-13 have been rejected as obvious over Tamai in view of Akiba. Claim 14 has been rejected as obvious over Tamai in view of Saito. Applicants respectfully traverse each of these rejections.

Each rejection relies on Tamai. Tamai has an effective prior art date of May 18, 2001. Verified translations of Japanese priority applications 2000-310390 (filed October 11, 2000) and 2001-021399 (filed January 30, 2001) are filed herewith. In view of the perfection of the claim for priority, Tamai is not available as prior art and the rejections should be withdrawn.

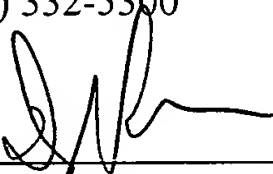
Favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: March 11, 2004

By



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